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Die altenglischen Rätsel (*Die Rätsel des Exeterbuchs*), herausgegeben, erläutert und mit Wörterverzeichnis versehen von Moritz Trautmann. (Alt- und mittelenglische Texte herausgegeben von L. Morsbach und F. Holthausen. No. 8.) Heidelberg, Carl Winters Universitätsbuchhandlung; New York, G. E. Stechert & Co. 1915. Pp. xx + 203.

There is probably no scholar alive who has devoted more of his time to the study of the Old English Riddles than Moritz Trautmann, the veteran Anglist, now professor emeritus, of the University of Bonn. Evidently he was attracted by the enigmatic character of those remarkable poems which allowed full sway to the exercise of scholarly ingenuity and kept him pondering on solutions and textual tangles for a period of some thirty years. After many delays, and in the face of difficulties, yet with a youngster's enthusiasm, he now offers his edition of the Riddles as a final fruit of his labors on what has been described by another editor as "the most difficult text in the field of Anglo-Saxon."

It is well known that Professor Trautmann, in several respects, holds views distinctly and implicitly his own. But the fact that this edition is included in the series of *Alt- und mittelenglische Texte* seems to indicate that the differences between him and other scholars are greater in theory than in practice. Occasionally, it is true, Holthausen and Trautmann disagree on what may or may not be permissible in the system of Anglo-Saxon versification, but on the whole the edition has been made to fit in well enough into the general scheme of the series.

In conformity with the plan carried out in previous numbers, this volume contains only a brief Introduction, setting forth concisely the main facts relating to the investigation of the Riddles, its history and net results as seen by the editor. A fuller account of various matters of this kind appeared simultaneously in the form of separate papers published in *Anglia,* XXXVIII, and *Beiblatt zur Anglia,* XXV. On the other hand, an extensive bibliography of eleven pages has been provided in order to put the student in possession of the requisite critical apparatus for independent investigation. The titles of books and papers are entered in chronological order under the names of the respective authors, which are listed alphabetically. Without denying the advantages of such an arrangement, I cannot help thinking that a systematic, topical bib-

liography, with, here and there, a word of criticism or comment, perhaps even some Baedeker stars added for guidance, would be a still more serviceable tool in the hands of those for whom the book has been intended.

The copious notes (pp. 65-142) are given up almost entirely to the discussion of textual matters, critical and interpretational, which includes, of course, a defense of the solutions adopted or proposed. Regarding these, honest difference of opinion is still found possible in more than one instance. When we bear in mind that as widely varying solutions of individual Riddles have been put forth as Harp, Shield, Scabbard, Cross, Sword-rack (No. 53, according to Trautmann's numbering), or Wandering Minstrel, Riddle, Moon, Spirit (No. 93), and that Trautmann himself offered the four successive answers of Hailstones, Rain-drops, Storm-clouds, Black Martins (No. 55), we may indeed derive comfort from the discovery that in a fairly large number of cases a practical consensus of opinion has been attained by this time. That Trautmann in the course of his long career felt constrained repeatedly to change his views on cardinal questions of interpretation is a striking illustration of the limitations and instability of our knowledge. Indeed, few of us are spared that kind of experience and the resultant practical lesson in modesty and resignation.

An interesting point relating to the riddle makers' method suggests itself incidentally in connection with Riddle 13 (Tupper's No. 16, Wyatt's No. 15), for which Trautmann has accepted Dietrich's solution 'Badger.' Remarking, in an Appendix (p. 202), on Holthausen's suggestion to change *swift ic eom on fēþe,* l. 2 to *swift ic neom on fēþe,* the editor rightly objects that such a negation of a quality is far less likely than a corresponding positive statement. But from this it does not necessarily follow that the conjectured *sōft* or *sēfte* is to be substituted for the *swift* of the MS. Even granting that the description is not correct,—absolute accuracy can hardly be expected and was probably not intended in every instance, —may not the author have felt justified in endowing the 'hero' of his poem with an abundance of more or less strikingly commendable qualities?

The treatment of the text is in general more conservative than might have been expected. No doubt, those of a cautious turn of mind will find many more emendations than they consider neces-

sary. At the same time, it must be admitted, that these poems, by their very nature, team with puzzles, obscurities, and difficulties which make a 'standard' text seem a rather remote possibility. Nor need the frivolous remark be suppressed that in the case of some Riddles the weary critic feels like falling in with Wyatt's wish that they were "at the bottom of the bay of Portugal." At any rate, it will be for the users of the edition in seminar classes to study the many open textual questions without prejudice and to weigh carefully the merits of the various changes which have been proposed or incorporated in the text itself.

I beg to remark quite briefly on a few selected passages only. 1, 32 (4, 2; 3, 2). *sendeð ƿonne under salwonge / bearm* [*on*] *brādan.* Whatever the precise meaning of *sælwong* (or *sæl-*, MS. *sal-*) may be, the dative with *under* is clearly impossible after the verb *sendeð*. As already seen by Wyatt, *under sælwonge*[*s*] / *bearm* [*ƿone,* Holthausen] *brādan* would make satisfactory syntax and sense.—1, 36 (4, 6; 3, 6), *nāh ic hwyrft weges.* Why should the genitive, *i. e. hwyrftweges,* after *nāh* be considered strange? It would not be the only instance. Similarly, *e. g., nāt* is followed by the genitive in *Beow.* 681: *nāt hē ƿāra gōda.*—1, 97 (4, 67; 3, 67), *Swā ic ƿrymful ƿēow ƿrāgum winne.* It seems a legitimate question whether *ƿrāg* may not be meant here in the sense of 'hardship' (cf. *Mod. Phil.* III, 254), and a like question is still more pertinent with regard to *ƿrāgbysig* 2, 1, since neither 'busy at times' nor 'periodically employed' is exactly a convincing rendering; the compounds *synbysig, nȳdbysig* could be appealed to for support.—9, 3 ff. Trautmann prints: *Ic dysge dwelle ond dole hwette; / unrædsīƿas ōƿrum stȳre / nyttre fōre.* I still believe my interpretation, *Beibl.* XVII, 300 f. quite possible; the construction of *hwettan* with the genitive of the thing, *dole hwette / unrædsīƿas* (gen. sing.), though not recorded elsewhere and less obvious than *on* with accusative or *tō* with dative (as in *Andr.* 286 f.: *ūsic lust hweteð on ƿā lēodmearce . . . tō ƿāre māran byrig*), might be compared to an expression like *wæron æscwigan . . . sīðes gefȳsde, El.* 259 f. In fact, a genitive construction is found to interchange with *on* and *tō,* as in *Guðl.* 1023 *forðsīðes fūs, ib.* 1121 *fūsne on forðsīð; Beow.* 2118 *gearo gyrnwræce, ib.* 1109 *on bǣl gearu, El.* 23 *gearwe tō gūðe.* That *unrædsīƿas* on syntactical grounds cannot be included in the same clause with *stȳre,* has been properly remarked by Tupper.—A

typical case is presented by l. 9, the real *crux* and the key to the solution of this Riddle (9): (*wā him þæs þēawes*) *siþþan hēah* (MS.) *bringeð horda dēorast* (*gif hī unrǣdes ǣr ne geswīcaþ*). As it stands, no satisfactory sense can be extracted from the text; an emendation must be ventured, and upon it will depend the final decision in the issue between 'wine' and 'night.' Trautmann's *hearm* or *hēaf bringeð* is a tempting guess, but does not quite agree with *horda dēorast*. If by the latter expression we understand, with Bright, 'the soul' (cf. *sāwle hord, Beow.* 2422), or perhaps, 'the accumulated good deeds' (cf. *ðonne forlȳst hē eall his ærran good, būton hē hit eft gebēte, Boet.* 103, 20 f.), a conjectural change like *hēan gebringeð* might possibly be given a hearing. But who would dogmatize about such guesses?—14, 2, *somod wiþ þām sæcce*. The assumption of a weak verb *sæccan*, which would render the insertion of *fremman* unnecessary, need not be considered far-fetched. As *sacan* is found by the side of *sacu*, a weak verb *sæccan* may have been in existence in connection with the noun *sæcc*. As *sæcc* is used much more rarely than *sacu*, the scanty record of *sæccan* is not particularly surprising.—24, 17, *dolwīce* does not look like an improvement on *dolwīte*. If we regard *dolwīte* as a reference to the pains of hell (Tupper), the term presents a fairly acceptable contrast to *dryhtfolca helm*. Does *dolwīte* denote (eternal) punishment meted out to a *dolsceaða?*—25, 13, *strong on sprǣce* is not inappropriate with reference to an intoxicated person, if we take strong as 'fierce,' 'wild,' 'excited.'—52, 9. Trautmann is entirely right in retaining *þon* after *ǣr* (instead of changing it into the common *þonne*), since the existence of this form is sufficiently established. A note on this point has been added in the Glossary.—79, 8. The normalization of *stondende* to *stondend*[*n*]*e* is hardly called for, as the participle is quite frequently left uninflected.

The Glossary (pp. 143-201), which is very full, gives evidence of much careful work. It includes numerous etymologies. That the *æ* has been treated as an independent letter and is not merged with the *a*, has been noticed with especial satisfaction. The popular way of inserting the *æ* between *ad* and *af* is indeed a custom more honour'd in the breach than the observance.

A pleasant surprise is the addition of sixteen facsimile plates showing pp. 105 a, 109 b, 122 b, 124 b-130 b of the MS. in reduced size.

Students of Anglo-Saxon now have at their service three separate editions of the Riddles published within five years and representing three different series of Texts,—and there is room for each one of them. Trautmann's edition has been put into shape with a view to serve as a basis for seminar exercises. It seems well adapted to that purpose.

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A Spanish Grammar for Beginners. By M. A. DEVITIS. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1915.

The present great war raging beyond the seas has already caused a great number of readjustments in human affairs: not the least among these is the extraordinary stimulus given to the study of Spanish. Colleges that two years ago had from fifteen to twenty-five students in first year Spanish now enroll in the same classes two and three hundred. Moreover, any number of high schools are introducing Spanish because of local demand, and the classes are decidedly popular. The sudden breaking off of all commercial intercourse between Germany and South America made the United States the fitting country to take the place of the former. The commercial possibilities thus opened create a demand for a practical knowledge of Spanish, altho it is a question whether the demand is sufficient to encourage greater interest, or even as much as is now displayed.

To meet this very situation, Professor M. A. DeVitis of the St. Louis High Schools, has published a grammar that is both practical and attractive. Altho there have been two or three other excellent grammars previously in use, this book has peculiar merit in that it is divided into lessons of the proper length, of proper gradation, and yet is sufficiently complete, tho not overburdened as are some of its predecessors. Of the fifty lessons, every seventh is a review, making forty-three distinct divisions in the treatment of the various parts of grammar. A commendable point is the full treatment (in seven lessons) of the subjunctive, the greatest stumbling-block for the beginner in Spanish: the usage also of the prepositions, *por, para, a, de, con,* is treated in greater detail than is usual.